SUMMER 2022

Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine

Messages

Dr. Marcus Jones
1992
President
Northwestern State University

Dear Alumni:

Many of you were present this spring for the long-awaited return of Flavor of Louisiana and the Greek Centennial Celebration. What a weekend! Your presence and enthusiasm made both events memorable, followed shortly thereafter by spring commencement in which nearly 1,000 individuals joined the alumni ranks. The accomplishments of our graduates are indicators of career readiness. We highlighted several of our graduates throughout the ceremonies for leaving their impact on the university.

In this edition, you will read about alumni who are writing books, advancing in their careers and working for the betterment of their communities. They are examples of individuals who have expanded the university's prominence for the past 138 years.

Preparations for the fall semester are already underway. A week after commencement, we welcomed students to the first session of Freshman Connection with plans to host a series of seven sessions, four on the main campus and one each in Shreveport, Leesville and Alexandria. Freshman Connection participants are typically both nervous and excited and our Connectors do a fantastic job of introducing incoming students to campus, getting them registered for classes and helping them get involved.

Thank you for all that you do support Northwestern State and, as always, Fork 'Em, Demons!

Dr. Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs for University Advancement

Dear Alumni:

Northwestern alumni and supporters who know and have worked with Danielle Antoon Cobb in recent years will join me in extending congratulations on her promotion to the position of Director of Alumni Affairs at NSU.

Danielle has been Associate Director of the division since 2019 and has been passionate and extremely effective in planning and coordinating alumni events and activities and expanding the university's extensive and far-reaching network of graduates and former students.

She and her family have deep roots at Northwestern, and that close connection has assisted her in becoming an extraordinary ambassador for NSU. The new title more accurately reflects her responsibilities and the growing role that she plays in the University Advancement area of our university.

I look forward to continuing to work with Danielle and others in Alumni, Advancement and Development in maintaining and bolstering the bonds between the university and the alumni and other stakeholders who have provided such strong support to Northwestern over the years.

Alumni Columns
Official Publication of
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana
Organized in 1884
A member of CASE
Volume XXXII Number 2 SUMMER 2022
The Alumni Columns (USPS 015480) is published
by Northwestern State University,
Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71497-0002
Periodicals Postage Paid at Natchitoches, La.,
and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the
Alumni Columns, Northwestern State University,
Natchitoches, La. 71497-0002.
Alumni Office Phone: 318-357-4414 and 888-799-6486
FAX: 318-357-4225 • E-mail: owensd@nsula.edu

NSU ALUMNI OFFICERS

President ..... Leah Sherman Middlebrook, Dallas, 1986, 2016
1st Vice President ..... Dr. Nikki Ceaser-Small, Arlington, Texas, 2007
2nd Vice President ..... J. Scott Repp, McKinney, Texas, 1989
Secretary ..... Kimberly Martin, Lake Charles, 1988
Treasurer ..... Trey Hill, Baton Rouge, 1985
Past President ..... Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

NSU President ..... Dr. Marcus Jones, 1992
Vice President for External Affairs ..... Jerry Pierce, 1961
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs for University Advancement ..... Drake Owens, 2004, 2005

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steven Celestine ..... Shreveport, 1989
Tommy Chester ..... Natchitoches, 1969
Caron Chester Coleman ..... Natchitoches, 2000
Shade Dufrene ..... Savannah, Texas, 1999, 2003
Allen Evans ..... Shreveport, 1989
John Evans ..... Natchitoches, 1992
LaTasha Gray-Grant ..... Mansfield, Texas, 2007
Emilyn Horton ..... Natchitoches, 1987, 1993, 2001
Emilie King ..... Shreveport, 2017
Matt Koury ..... Leesville, 1995
Jeremy LaCombe ..... New Roads, 1999
Lane Luckie ..... Tyler, Texas, 2008
Dr. Lisa Landry Mathews ..... Shreveport, 1992
Virginia Monceret ..... New Roads, 2001
Mandi Mueller ..... New Orleans, 2009
Michael Prudhomme ..... Natchez, 1984
Joe Robertson ..... DeQuincy, 1990
Mark Spikes ..... League City, Texas, 1991
Joseph B. Stamey ..... Natchitoches, 1983
Crystal Hemphill Stewart ..... Natchitoches, 1997, 2003
Toni Stroud ..... Natchitoches, 1989
Glenn Talbert ..... Shreveport, 1964
Taylor Townsend ..... Natchitoches, 1986
Jim Villard ..... Alexandria, 1983

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Brungart ..... Natchitoches, 1969, 1971
Leonard Endris ..... Leesville, 1974
Dr. Hayward Hargrove ..... Black Mountain, N.C., 1964
Gail Jones ..... Natchez 1981, 1998

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

SGA President ..... Bailey Willis, Opelousas

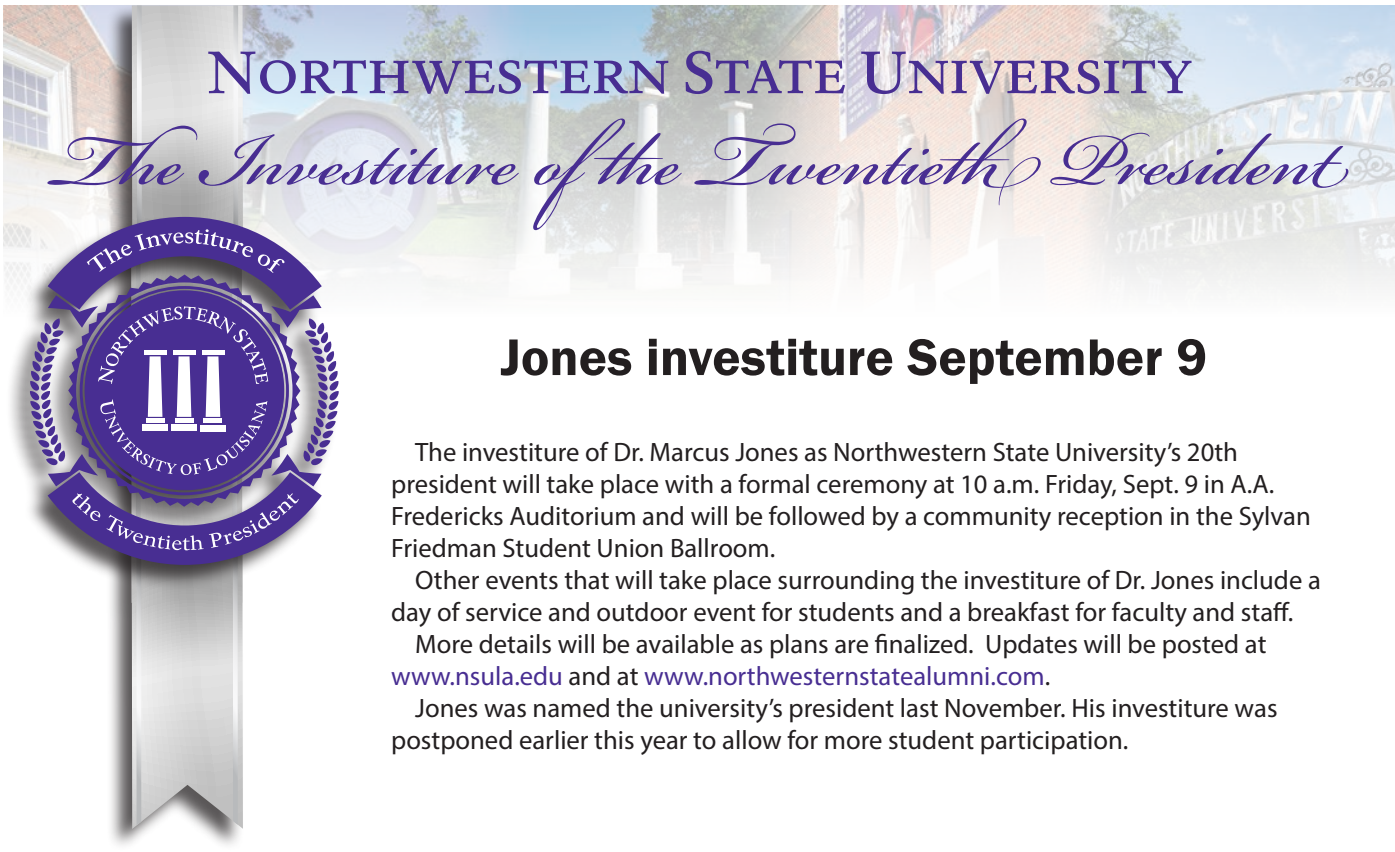
Publisher ..... Dr. Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Editor ..... Leah Pilcher Jackson, 1994, 2011
Contributors ..... David West
Jason Pugh
Matthew Vines, 2016
Photography ..... Chris Reich, 2007, 2009
Design/Layout ..... Daphne Hines, 1982, 1984

Northwestern State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, specialist's, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Northwestern State University.

Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies (i.e., Title IX): Employees/Potential Employees – Veronica M. Biscoe, EEO Officer (318-357-6359) and Students – Reatha Cox, Dean of Students (318-357-5285). For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Disability Support Director, Randi Washington, at 318-357-5460. Additionally, Northwestern complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy & Campus Crime Statistics Act. Information about NSU's campus security and crime statistics can be found at https://www.nsula.edu/universityaffairs/police/. Full disclosure statement: http://universityplanning.nsula.edu/notice-of-non-discrimination.

Businesswoman, philanthropist Wilkes presented honorary doctorate

Northwestern State University awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities to Lela Mae Wilkes, seated, during spring commencement ceremonies. NSU President Dr. Marcus Jones presided over the honors. Wilkes was honored along with graduates of the School of Business and Technology. Wilkes, a 1968 graduate of NSU, is owner and chief executive officer of Brown Eagle, a Baton Rouge company with more than 500 employees which serves chemical companies and other businesses across the mid-South. Wilkes has been a long-time supporter of Northwestern State. She was inducted into the NSU Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line in 2005. Wilkes served on the NSU Foundation Board of Directors. She has served on the School of Business Dean's Advisory Board and has been recognized as a Distinguished Graduate of the School of Business. Brown Eagle is one of the largest companies of its kind in the nation and is the only woman-owned organization that provides material handling, on-site assembly, packaging, warehousing, shipping and other services to numerous chemical companies and other industries.



Jones investiture September 9

The investiture of Dr. Marcus Jones as Northwestern State University's 20th president will take place with a formal ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 9 in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium and will be followed by a community reception in the Sylvan Friedman Student Union Ballroom.

Other events that will take place surrounding the investiture of Dr. Jones include a day of service and outdoor event for students and a breakfast for faculty and staff.

More details will be available as plans are finalized. Updates will be posted at www.nsula.edu and at www.northwesternstatealumni.com.

Jones was named the university's president last November. His investiture was postponed earlier this year to allow for more student participation.

On the Cover: NSU is hosting seven sessions of Freshman Connection this summer, welcoming to campus the Class of 2026.

This public document was published at a total cost of $24,221.06. 55,638 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of $24,221.06. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints is $24,221.06. This document was published by Northwestern State University Office of University Advancement and printed by ColorArt LLC, P. O. Box 645031, Dallas, TX 75264-5031 to foster and promote the mutually beneficial relationship between Northwestern State University and its alumni, supporters and community partners. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43.31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statues.

Greeks recognized as 100 for 100 honorees, or those representing them, gathered for a toast and a group photo during the Greek Centennial Celebration.

100 for 100 honored during Greek Centennial Celebration

Northwestern State University recognized 100 individuals who made significant contributions to fraternity and sorority life at the university over the last century during the Greek Centennial Celebration.

Individuals were honored during a champagne toast and recognition program April 9. Individuals and their respective Greek organizations are as follows.

Sandra Adams, Delta Sigma Theta
Dr. Robert Alost, Sigma Tau Gamma
Scott Andrews, Kappa Alpha Order
Johnny Antoon, Kappa Sigma
Miraim E. Beary, Delta Sigma Epsilon
Roxiann Beck-Braxton, Zeta Phi Beta
Wes Breeden, Pi Kappa Phi
Robert Broadwell, Pi Kappa Phi
Stan Broome, Kappa Alpha Order
Dennis J. Brown, Phi Beta Sigma
Dr. Lamar D. Bryant, Alpha Phi Alpha
Kattina D. Bryant, Delta Sigma Theta
Jason Campbell, Sigma Nu
Dr. Nikki Ceaser-Small, Delta Sigma Theta
Yvette Ceasar-Williams, Delta Sigma Theta

NORTHWESTERN STATE 100 GREEK LIFE

Monty V. Chicola, Kappa Sigma
Ellis Coutee, Tau Kappa Epsilon
Reatha Cox, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Robert Crew, Pi Kappa Phi
Jacque Crew, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Terri Ellis Cunningham, Phi Mu
Mandrell Drakes, Phi Beta Sigma
Carley McCord Ensminger, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Dustin W. Eubanks, Tau Kappa Epsilon
Rev. Ronnie Evans, Kappa Alpha Psi
John Evans, Kappa Sigma
Julian Foy, Kappa Alpha Order
A.A. Fredericks, Lambda Zeta
John Levy Frederick, Phi Kappa Nu & Pi Kappa Phi

Dudley G. Fulton Sr., Sigma Tau Gamma
Dr. Kathleen Gillan, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Ken Guidry, Kappa Sigma
Angela C. Guillory, Sigma Kappa
Ken Hale, Kappa Alpha Order
Donald Hall, Phi Beta Sigma
Shayna Hines, Sigma Gamma Rho
Susan Harling, Phi Mu
Billy Joe Harrington, Kappa Sigma
Lucile Mertz Hendrick, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Caroline Annette Franklin Hooper, Alpha Kappa Alpha
Kenneth Hoover Sr., Phi Beta Sigma
Dr. Steve Horton, Kappa Sigma
Emilyn Matthews Horton, Phi Mu
Adrian Howard, Phi Beta Sigma
Linda W. Howard, Zeta Phi Beta
Doug Ireland, Pi Kappa Phi
Dr. Marcus Jones, Kappa Alpha Psi
S. Dwayne Jones, Theta Chi
Lydia Petrus Kennedy, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Amanda Killingsworth, Alpha Omicron Pi
Jeremy LaCombe, Sigma Nu
Angela Lasyone, Phi Mu
Walter Ledet, Phi Kappa Nu and Pi Kappa Phi
Edwina Lewis, Delta Sigma Theta

Back after COVID, Flavor of Louisiana draws record crowd

After a two-year hiatus, Flavor of Louisiana, NSU's spring seafood festival fund raiser, returned in conjunction with the long-awaited Greek Centennial Celebration. With a record-setting crowd, Flavor of Louisiana featured 28 vendors offering samplings of Louisiana seafood, craft beers, specialty cocktails and desserts along with dancing and entertainment. More than 40 volunteers helped with the event that featured special guest Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser. Flavor of Louisiana netted more than $81,000 that will support student scholarships, program development, academic enhancements and faculty support. The Greek Centennial had over 300 participants and netted more than $15,000.

Rev. G. Stanley Lewis, Omega Psi Phi
DeVon Lockett, Kappa Alpha Psi
Lane Luckie, Pi Kappa Phi
Jana Parker Lucky, Phi Mu
Dr. Chris Maggio, Kappa Alpha Order
Ross Maggio, Lambda Zeta
John Manno Jr., Kappa Sigma
Lynne Averre Manno, Sigma Kappa
Valsin Marmillion, Pi Kappa Phi
Tait J. Martin, Ph.D., Theta Chi
Jack McCain Jr., Phi Kappa Nu & Pi Kappa Phi
Cecile Mengue, Sigma Gamma Rho
Waylon Metoyer, Alpha Phi Alpha
Leah Sherman Middlebrook, Phi Mu
Brenda Fowler Milner, Delta Sigma Theta
Barbara Beverly Franklin Moham, Alpha Kappa Alpha
Virginia Dixon Monceret, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Robert Moran, Kappa Alpha Psi
David D. Morgan, Pi Kappa Phi
Sherry F. Morgan, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Patrick Murphy, Lambda Zeta
Michael E. "Mickey" Murphy, Phi Kappa Nu & Pi Kappa Phi
Denise Lewis Patrick, Delta Sigma Theta
Barbara Jo Pease, Sigma Kappa
Lee Posey, Kappa Sigma
Lenn D. Prince, Delta Zeta
Hoyt J. Reed, Phi Kappa Nu
Ralph L. Ropp, Sigma Tau Gamma & Pi Kappa Phi
Beau Russell, Pi Kappa Alpha
Craig Ryan, Omega Psi Phi
Joe Sampite, Phi Kappa Nu & Pi Kappa Phi
Truett L. Scarborough, Sigma Delta Tau
Michael D. Scott, Phi Beta Sigma
Dr. Cathy Reed Seymour, Phi Mu
Marcus Spears, Omega Psi Phi
Quincy Spencer, Delta Upsilon
Britney Burton Spivey, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Lanetia Spivey, Zeta Phi Beta
Stacy C. Stewart, Kappa Sigma
Crystal Hemphill Stewart, Phi Mu
Shur-Shet V. Weaver, Phi Beta Sigma
Joe Webb, Sigma Delta Tau & Sigma Tau Gamma
Matthew Whitaker, Pi Kappa Alpha
Thomas Whitehead, Kappa Alpha Order
Ora Garland Williams, Sigma Sigma Sigma
Tommy M. Wright, Kappa Alpha Order

Alumni and friends joined honored guests at the 100 for 100 Greek Centennial Toast.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority – Iota Mu Chapter - hosts 50-year Celebration

Sorority alumnae gathered for a Simply Golden Celebration.

A Simply Golden Celebration was held May 21-22 marking the 50th anniversary of the Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at NSU. The chapter was the first Greek Black sorority chartered on the predominately white campus in 1972. Chapter members and alumnae traveled from across the nation for the grand celebration representing five decades of sisterhood, scholarship, service and social action.

The historic celebration began on NSU campus with a meet and greet networking luncheon focusing on the mission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and how to strategically position the chapter for the work that lies ahead.

Current chapter president for the 50-year celebration Ar'Niyah Bradley shared in the sisterly fellowship. Following the luncheon the NSU Alumni Association provided a tour of the campus showcasing the progressive changes and state of the art construction that has taken place over the 50-year span.

The chapter's 50th anniversary celebration took place at Merci Beaucoup Restaurant. The Delta sisters were recognized by their colors, dressed in flaming red with a touch of gold for an evening that reflected on their rich 50-year legacy. Members and invited guest enjoyed French/Cajun cuisine, live music and a list of speakers that included the chapter Chartering Advisor Mrs. Edwina M. Lewis, City of Natchitoches Mayor The Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr. and an official statement from Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards recognizing May 21 in honor of Lewis. Remarks were given by Chapter President Bradley, Regina Emanuel Martin, 50th year member; Dr. Nikki Ceaser-Small, NSU Alumni Association, and chapter council advisor Judith Hayes Wallter.

Chapter members and alumnae were thrilled to announce the establishment of the Edwina Mudrick Lewis Distinguished Service Award, bearing the name of the chapter's founding advisor, for 25 years of service. A check presentation honoring Lewis will be made to NSU President Dr. Marcus Jones during Homecoming on Oct. 22.

Iota Mu Chapter President Bradley was gifted with a personalized life size sorority crest to be displayed at all official chapter celebrations and noted occasions. All sorority sisters in attendance received customized DST gifts.

The weekend culminated with May Week Worship Service at First Baptist Church-North Street, where members of the chapter gathered for services 50 years ago and where several sorority members are active in the congregation today. A community service donation of $500 was presented to the church in support of their Christian Education Ministry honoring Lewis' dedication and devotion to education.

The 50th Celebration Committee members are Bradley, Cynthia Harmon, Brenda Fowler Milner, Sonya Snowden Turner and Gisele Proby-Bryant.

The Iota Mu chapter was chartered May 21, 1972. Under the leadership of the late Corrine D. Maybruce, who served as Southwest Regional Director, 13 young women joined Sandra Adams (Wilson), a model initiate/transfer student who worked diligently to assist in establishing the new chapter. The Alexandria Alumnae Chapter served as the sponsoring chapter and attended the chartering ceremonies. Adams was elected president of the newly formed chapter. The other charter members included Teresa Brown, Mae Alice Culbert, Regina Emanuel, Mary Hickman, Rhonda Holmes, Patricia Johnson, Vivian Johnson, Linda Jones, Cora Lewis, Donna Prater, Sandra Satcher and Patricia Sowells.

Pictured above in the 1973 Potpourri are Delta Sigma Thetas Sandra Adams, president; Teresa Brown, secretary; Regina Emanuel, vice president; Pat Johnson, Linda Jones, Pat Monroe, Donna Prator, Sandra Satcher, treasurer, and Patricia Sowells. PYRAMIDS - Shelia Cleveland, Leola Fisher, Rhonda Johnson, Beverly Miles, Clary Williams, Edwina Lewis, advisor, and Odell Brown, Man of the Year. The group photo depicts Delta Sigma Theta through the years.

continued on next page

Omega Psi Phi - Theta Delta celebrates 50 years

Members and alumni of Northwestern State University's Theta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity will celebrate their chapter's 50th anniversary this year, dedicating the celebration to the Rev. Brother G. Stanley Lewis, founder, and advisor.

In the Fall of 1971, the District Representative of the Ninth District visited Natchitoches and impressed upon college administrators the need to establish an undergraduate Omega Chapter on the NSU campus. Brother G. Stanley Lewis was appointed advisor and 22 young men started out. On May 20, 1972, 18 brothers were inducted into the Theta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. They called themselves "The Funky 18."

NSU's Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, also celebrating a golden anniversary this year, joined Omega Psi Phi at a Homecoming tailgate.

The presence of a Lampados Club of a Black fraternity on the campus of a predominantly white university was a new phenomenon, not only at Northwestern, but in the Natchitoches community as well. A Black fraternity on NSU's campus was new to its white students as well as it was to its Black students.

Brother Lewis brought a fair and sensible leadership to young Black men on campus. While matriculating at NSU, Omega men participated in organizations such as the NAACP, Student Government Association, Blue Key, sports, band, and many other campus organizations. On several occasions, the brothers of Theta Delta received the President's Cup for having attained the highest GPA among Greek-letter organizations on campus. Omega men of Theta Delta were honored in Who's Who in Among American Universities and Colleges and several were selected as Mr. NSU.

The Rev. G. Stanley Lewis, center, cut the ribbon when Omega Psi Phi – Delta Mu Chapter installed a fraternity bench on the Kyser Hall brickway. Established at NSU in 1972, the fraternity is celebrating 50 years in 2022.

While at NSU, Theta Delta Brothers participated in community service activities in the Natchitoches area supporting a Sickle Cell Anemia Drive, adopting a childcare center, and providing upkeep and donations to worthwhile causes.

After graduating, Theta Delta Brothers went on to become educators, doctors, nurses, engineers, members of the U.S. armed forces, CPAs, business leaders, attorneys, city, and government officials, first responders, and professional athletes and coaches. Since 1972, Theta Delta Brothers along with their Delta Sigma Theta Sisters in Iota Mu Chapter, have returned to the campus for Homecomings, reunions, and various campus events.

In addition to Brother Lewis, the brothers of Theta Delta are indebted to other Omega Men who served as chapter advisors over the past 50 years. They recognize the contributions of current and recent Theta Delta Brothers who are carrying on the fraternity's four cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Viewers can watch videos chronicling Theta Delta's 50-year history and a tribute to the Rev. Brother G. Stanley at the following links:

- Theta Delta's 50-Years Anniversary Video: nsu.la/ThetaDelta50years
- Tribute to Reverend G. Stanley Lewis Video: nsu.la/LewisTribute

Delta Sigma Theta 50 year celebration continued

Edwina Lewis was chosen as Iota Mu Advisor. Demonstrating a full understanding of the African Proverb "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," the inseparable team of G. Stanley Lewis, first advisor of Theta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, and his wife Edwina shaped the lives of hundreds of college-educated women and men. In the spirit of sisterhood, alumnae gratefully acknowledge the 50-year journey with their loving brothers, Theta Delta Chapter of NSU, for their strength and encouragement.

Over the the last 50 years, chapter members have been active at NSU through participation in campus organizations and activities including Pan-Hellenic, NAACP and Student Government organizations. Iota Mu members served as club officers, were honored as Miss NSU and were listed among Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges, Purple Jackets, scholar athletes, honor society organizations and other leadership endeavors.

Spotlights

Bouknight

Randy Bouknight, former vice president of Student Affairs at Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina, received a Doctor of Humane Letters during spring commencement after a unanimous vote by the university's Board of Trustees. The honor is part of the university's 150th anniversary.

Bouknight began his service to Lander University in 1972 after finishing his graduate studies at Northwestern State in 1970. Two years later he was promoted to dean of students and in 1979 he was named vice president of Student Affairs, a position he held for 46 years until 2018. Since then, he has continued to serve as a special gifts officer for University Advancement.

Genevieve Gordon of Many was elected second vice president of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association. Gordon will serve as chair of LRTA's State Program Committee making her responsible for working with the district second vice president on program promotion.

Gordon

Gordon retired with 31 years of experience as an educator. She has been a member of LRTA since 2009. Gordon previously served as president of LRTA District VIII, which encompasses DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Winn parishes. In 2014, Gordon was recipient of the Horace G. Robinson Lifetime Membership award and LRTA Name of Fame.

Gordon earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Education and a Master of Science at Northwestern. She also earned a Certificate in Education Specialist concentrating in administration and supervision from LSU. Gordon is an active member of Aimwell Baptist Church. In her spare time, she and her husband love to travel.

Danielle Antoon Cobb named Alumni Affairs director

Danielle Antoon Cobb has been named director of Alumni Affairs at Northwestern State University. Her appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

Cobb has been associate director of Alumni Affairs since 2019. Her duties have included enhancing participation from both alumni and non-alumni supporters in the areas of membership, attendance, affinity efforts and volunteer endeavors, working closely with the director of the NSU Foundation to determine and ensure institutional and organizational goals are met and planning and executing all alumni related events and reunions sponsored by the Office of University Advancement.

She was associate director of development at NSU before shifting into Alumni Affairs. Cobb was senior community development manager for the American Cancer Society from 2014-2019. She is a member of the Service League of Natchitoches where she was president in 2020-21 and a past member of Kiwanis of Natchitoches and Les Amies Service Organization.

Earlier this year, Cobb was named a Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce Four Under Forty award winner, which recognizes young professionals in the Natchitoches area who excel in community leadership and professional achievements, based on community participation and influence as a role model.

A 2010 Northwestern State graduate in hospitality management and tourism, Cobb had an interest in working with the university's alumni since her time as a student.

Cobb

Cobb said her favorite part of the job is meeting new alumni and hearing their favorite memories from their time at NSU.

Cobb developed strong ties to Northwestern as she was growing up. Both her parents were NSU alumni. Her father, Johnny Antoon, was a successful Natchitoches businessman who employed two generations of NSU students. Her mother, Merle Antoon, was chapter advisor for Sigma Sigma Sorority for many years, which gave Cobb "80 college girls who were, in my eyes, my best friends." Cobb's husband Daniel is a 2011 NSU graduate as is her brother Michael who graduated in 2007.

As alumni director, Cobb plans to provide opportunities for Northwestern alumni to get together to reconnect. She hopes to create on-campus experiences as well as events in communities around the country where alumni live. Cobb doesn't intend to wait until graduation to involve current students and will create events and activities to make students aware of the Alumni Association.

Cobb believes NSU alumni play a crucial role in the continued success and development of the university.

For more information on the NSU Alumni Association, go to northwesternstatealumni.com.

Three Demon alumni/veterans making an impact in D.C.

For the past three years, three Northwestern State University alumni have dedicated their time outside of their daily jobs to building an international charity based in the Washington D.C. area.

Founded in 2019 by SGM **John "Mark" Reilly** (2002, Music Ed.), The Washington Tattoo, a 501(c)(3) charity whose vision is to inspire goodwill and veteran support through music, culture, and education, has been gaining momentum with big plans in the future.

A military tattoo is a performing arts event consisting of music, marching, dance and other displays performed by military and civilian personnel popular around the world. The members of The Washington Tattoo are on a mission to expand this global tradition here in the U.S. while giving back to the veteran community.

Mark Reilly enlisted in the Army right before graduation at NSU and has served his whole career with the 3rd Infantry Division Fife and Drum Corps at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia. As Sergeant Major of the unit, he most recently served as acting commander for the last six months with his retirement planned for this year after 20 years of service.

SGM Reilly recruited college friends **Ryan Dugas** (2000, Advertising Design) and **Jeremy Brunet** (1998, General Studies, USA Ret.) to assist in building his idea into a functional charity. Dugas was a member of the Army National Guard as an infantryman while at NSU and pursued a career in advertising and visual marketing and is currently a design marketing manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas and is based in Dallas. Dugas has volunteered with several veteran-based charities, including Heroes on the Water, Carry the Load, Patriot Paws and 22Kill, speaks to high school and college students about future planning, workplace expectations and how to find a job and to veterans who are graduating from college about the workplace differences between the private sector and military life. For his efforts, Dugas was named BCBSTX Volunteer of the Year in 2019.

Mark Reilly, Ryan Dugas and Jeremy Brunet

Reilly and Dugas are both Alumni members of NSU's Gamma Rho Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Maj (R) Jeremy Brunet served close to 25 years in the Army, starting in the National Guard as an infantryman. While at NSU, Brunet rose to be the Commander of the NSU Demon ROTC Battalion before getting his commission to the Army Aviation Corps as a CH-47 Chinook pilot. Brunet was deployed to Afghanistan three times and to Iraq once. After his deployment to Iraq, he switched career paths and went into the Army Acquisition Corps, developing weapon systems and platforms. While in the military he earned his MBA from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and his military education includes the Aviation Officers Basic and Advanced courses, Command and General Staff College, as well as numerous Defense Acquisition University courses. Jeremy has been involved with charitable work with Operation Iraqi Children, Ducks Unlimited and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

On April 4 of this year, the Washington Tattoo had their first annual gala at The Winery at Bull Run, adjacent to Manassas Battlefield in Virginia.

The event included world class wine, a silent auction and performances from local and international music and dance groups, culminating in a mini-tattoo performed for all in attendance.

To keep up with what these Demons are building, follow The Washington Tattoo on social media and their website www.thewashingtontattoo.com.

LPB honors Marmillion, Whitehead as Louisiana Legends

NSU alumni **Valsin Marmillion**, left, and **Thomas Whitehead**, right, were among those selected by Friends of LPB to be honored as a Louisiana Legends for 2022. Individuals selected for the honor have distinguished themselves in fields as diverse as philanthropy, science, sports, environmental conservation and the humanities.

Marmillion is founder of Marmillion & Company and former managing director of America's WETLAND Foundation. Whitehead is an expert and preservationist for the Clementine Hunter Collection. They join a prestigious list of 149 past Louisiana Legends that includes Academy and Grammy Award winners, star athletes, Pulitzer Prize winners and esteemed dignitaries, including the current United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

The 2022 gala and auction, which is a fundraiser for Friends of LPB, took place April 28 at Louisiana's Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

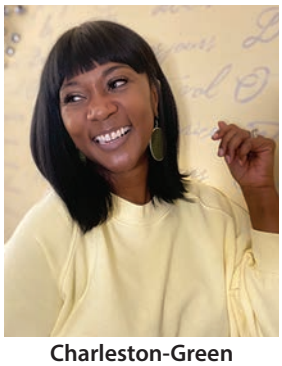
Begun in 1990, the Louisiana Legends Gala is a fundraising and public awareness project that draws support and participation across the state from citizens who value the many fine instructional, educational and cultural programs LPB provides.

Marmillion and Whitehead are both members of NSU's alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line.

Children's book addresses self-esteem, honesty and family adoption

Dawn Charleston-Green, an entrepreneur, Christian minister, mentor, writer, life blogger, self-published author and speaker, released a children's book entitled "Heeeyy Dandelion!," a colorfully illustrated book that gently addresses childhood self-esteem, honesty and family adoption.

In the story, young Ana struggles with self-esteem and is often dishonest for fear of rejection. Some of her insecurity also has to do with being adopted. Ana's mother shares with her the life cycle of a dandelion and draws the parallel that though dandelions are beautiful, they are often not wanted because they are viewed as weeds and most individuals don't understand their full benefits. Ana's mother assures her that, though adopted, she can grow and add value to the family who chose her.



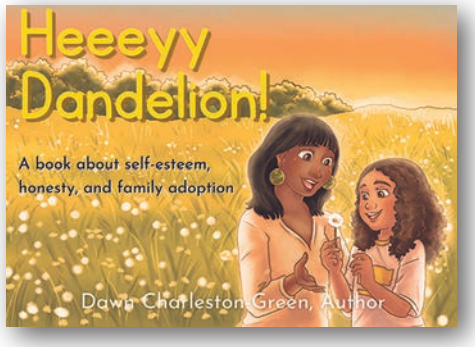
Charleston-Green

"'Heeeyy Dandelion!' is dear to me because my family is an adoptive family that has faced significant challenges through this journey," Charleston-Green said. The "Heeeyy Dandelion!" storybook concludes with vocabulary, check-on-learning and journal prompts to help children process what they've read both cognitively and emotionally. The "Heeeyy Dandelion!" Collection includes the storybook, daily journal, and coloring book.

Charleston-Green is originally from Mansfield and currently resides in Grovetown, Georgia. She earned a B.A. in English in 1996 and M.Ed. in counseling in 2003 and is 12 hours shy of a doctorate in education leadership. Charleston-Green was commissioned as a U.S. Army officer through NSU's ROTC program in 2003 and after graduation reported for active duty. She served in the Army for 11 years.

"I taught English and Beginning Choir at Natchitoches Central High School, and was actually the founder of their choir, Voices of the Chief, and had the pleasure of teaching the now Dr. Nikki Caesar-Small, first vice president of the NSU Alumni Board," she said.

Charleston-Green worked in child Advocacy for close to 10 years, serving as the director for the Augusta (Georgia) Judicial Circuit's Court



Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA). While in this capacity, her program was awarded the 2018 Most Innovative Advocacy Program for the State of Georgia for the number of foster care children served and number of trained advocates, as well as advocate retention.

She is also the owner and founder of Dawn of a New Day 365, LLC. DND365 is a blog and movement that focuses on women journeying through everyday life - the good, bad, ugly and unexpected.

She also authored the "5-Day Morning COFFEE Devotional" and has two books set to release late fall of this year and early winter of 2023.

More on Charleston-Green can be found at www.heeeyydandelion.com and at www.dawnofanewday365.com.

Theatre-Dance Scene Shop to be named for Phil Kidd

The Northwestern State University Theatre-Dance Scene Shop in the A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Building has been named the **Phil Kidd** Scene Shop to honor the long-time assistant professor and director of technical theatre. Kidd was a member of NSU's theatre and dance faculty for 18 years and designed sets for more than 30 theatre and dance productions. He was also technical director for numerous programs and productions held in theatre and dance facilities. Kidd retired in 2020 and passed away in February 2021. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy who served with distinction in Vietnam.

Kidd's colleagues said his personal qualities and professionalism will impact the Department of Theatre and Dance and its students and alumni for years to come.

Brett Garfinkel, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, said the recent approval of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Production and Design emphasizes Kidd's impact.

One of those professionals influenced by Kidd was Robert Richoux, who graduated from NSU and immediately started in a lead position at one of the largest Shakespeare companies in the country. Richoux went to graduate school at Florida State University, then to New York to work on Broadway, off-Broadway and in regional theatre before returning to the university where he is technical director, assistant professor of theatre technology and assistant facilities manager.

"Phil was a great educator and person," said Richoux. "He was able to work with and connect with students and make them feel like colleagues, but quickly students, myself included, realized he was miles ahead of us in knowledge which kept us coming back to the shop, wanting to learn more from him. He had a way about challenging students to rise to the occasion and success in those instances with a 'good job' from Phil made it all worth it."

A scholarship has been established at the NSU Foundation in Kidd's memory. Kidd's family donated his artwork and a recent auction was held to raise funds to endow the scholarship. According to Richoux, there are still about 200 available drafts, sketches, doodles, projects from his art classes and even some finished renderings still available. Keepsakes from some of the more popular pieces will be created to raise additional funds. Those interested in purchasing artwork can contact Richoux at richouxr@nsula.edu.

Donations can be made to the Phil Kidd Scholarship at www.northwesternstatealumni.com and designate the gift for the Phil Kidd Scholarship.

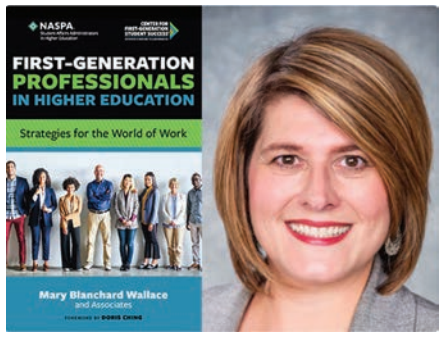
Wallace authors guidebook for first-generation professionals

Northwestern State alumna **Dr. Mary Blanchard Wallace** has authored a book titled "First-Generation Professionals in Higher Education: Strategies for the World of Work." Wallace currently serves as the assistant vice president for Student Experience in Student Affairs at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

In her book, which has attracted crowds at conferences and online discussions, Wallace explains why first-generation students make great first-generation professionals. She then shares stories and strategies for mastering the hidden curricula of the workplace, from navigating office politics to coping with imposter syndrome and making career-building professional connections.

"There is a story for every student," Wallace said. "My job is to listen to them and affirm them and find resources so they can be successful – not just graduate or be retained, but so they can fulfill their dreams and the dreams of their families."

Wallace earned a Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts, with a concentration in psychology and biology in 1992, followed by a Master of Arts in College Student Counseling and Personnel Services. She earned a Ph.d. in Human Resource Education and Workforce Development at LSU. Throughout her career she has served in several student services-oriented administrative roles at Texas Woman's University and LSU before her current role.



Wallace

Wallace's book is available through the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) at https://bit.ly/3lo7kWd.

Myers pens follow-up to successful debut novel

Myers

After Northwestern State University graduate **Emily A. Myers** published her first novel, "The Truth About Unspeakable Things" last year, the novel went on to become a finalist in the Chanticleer International Book Awards Clue Award contest (2021) for thriller and suspense fiction and a semi-finalist for the Chatelaine Award (2021) for romantic fiction and Somerset Award (2021) for contemporary fiction by the same company. All contests are on-going.

Now readers can continue the story with the sequel, "Bound by the Unspeakable," available on Amazon and most bookseller sites. Limited copies are available at Barnes and Noble on Youree Drive in Shreveport.

Early reviewers say the sequel is a fast-paced page-turner with plot twists you won't see coming. "Full of tension, romance, thrills and action, this book had me on the edge of my seat!" says one reviewer.

For updates on appearances and book signings and to follow along as Myers writes her new series, follow her on Facebook and Instagram @emilymyersauthor.

Sands releases romance series set in thinly-disguised Natchitoches

Author and Northwestern State University alumna **Susan Sands** is releasing a series of Southern romantic novels this year with three set in the fictional town of Cypress Bayou, Louisiana, a thinly disguised stand-in for Natchitoches. The first of the Bayou books, "Home to Cypress Bayou" was release May 31 and will be followed by "Secrets in Cypress Bayou" on Aug. 16 and "A Bayou Christmas" on Nov. 1.

Sands graduated from NSU in 1989 and was in town during the filming of "Steel Magnolias," which she remembers as an exciting time in Natchitoches' history. She compares her stories as "Steel Magnolias-meets-Sweet Home Alabama." She plans to visit Natchitoches this summer and host a book signing.

Meanwhile, Sands has been busy with other projects. She contributed a short story included in "Something Blue," a collection of wedding-themed romantic comedies by a group of authors that was released in June.

Sands made her debut with her Alabama series in 2015, beginning with "Again, Alabama," a Southern romantic women's fiction novel, that was followed by "Love, Alabama" and "Forever, Alabama," "Christmas, Alabama" and "Noel, Alabama: A Christmas Romance" (2020).

Sands

A native of Sabine Parish, Sands lives in Roswell, Georgia. She earned a degree in elementary education and is married to Douglas Sands, D.D.S., who graduated in 1989 from NSU's Department of Physical Education.

Readers can connect with Sands on her social media accounts:

https://susansands.com
https://www.bookbub.com/profile/susan-sands
https://www.facebook.com/susannsandsauthor
https://twitter.com/SusanNoelSands
https://www.instagram.com/susansandsauthor/

Wilma Ortego Reich Scholarship will assist radiologic sciences students

A Northwestern State University family recognized a loved one by creating a scholarship that will awarded to an upper-level student in radiologic sciences. The Wilma Ortigo Reich Scholarship was created by NSU Director of Photographic Services Chris Reich and his father Lewis Reich. Mrs. Reich passed away in 2018.

Wilma Reich graduated from Northwestern State in 1976 and spent most of her career at Schumpert Hospital in Shreveport, retiring as chief of ultrasound. During her career she advocated to close pay disparities among her staff and was a dedicated employee.

"She was there most of my childhood," Chris Reich said. "I distinctly remember her taking calls often so that she shared the load with her other techs. Beyond that she was a great mom, loved to decorate for the holidays, baked, loved tending to her garden and before her death traveling a lot."

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average.

"The criteria we both agreed on was that it went to someone who needed and deserved it, not someone who just made the best grades. We wanted it to have a meaningful impact," Reich said.

Friends can contribute to the scholarship by visiting northwesternstatealumni.com/reich-scholarship/.

Reich

Individuals interested in establishing a scholarship in honor of or in memory of a loved one can reach out to the NSU Foundation Development staff by calling Director of Development Jill Bankston at (318) 357-4241 or Assistant Director of Donor Relations Cristy Bernard at (318) 357-4292.

Art students recognized with Borders scholarship, awards

Caroline Shepherd of Frisco, Texas, is the 2022 recipient of the Lisa Chesser Borders Endowed Scholarship and Meraki Award, established in 2019 by Natchitoches artist James Borders to honor his late wife. Shepherd graduated in May from the Louisiana Scholars' College at NSU with a 4.0 grade point average.

Natchitoches artist James Borders presented scholarships and awards to three NSU students. Caroline Shepherd is the 2022 recipient of the Lisa Chesser Borders Endowed Scholarship and Meraki Award and Hunter and Halston Rachal were recipients of Avis Borders Fletcher and Margaret Pauline Chesser Awards. From left are Caroline Shepherd, James Borders and Hunter and Halston Rachal.

The scholarship presentation took place April 22 in the Lisa Chesser Borders Permanent Student Art Collection gallery in the Academic Success Center, located on the first floor of Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library. The space features a permanent exhibit of student artwork.

Shepherd is a digital media illustrator who originally planned to pursue music education as a career but changed to art education with a minor in music. Following graduation in May, she will pursue a Master of Arts in NSU's graduate program and intends to continue developing skills as a digital illustrator while teaching.

Twins Hunter and Halston Rachal of Elmer also received awards. They are senior art students who will graduate in December and were presented with the Avis Borders Fletcher and Margaret Pauline Chesser Awards, which Borders established to honor both his mother and his late wife's mother. In addition to a cash prize, award winners received signed framed prints depicting a sculpture titled "Faith" that Borders created at Trinity Baptist Church in memory of Lisa.

James Borders explained "meraki" as the concept of putting one's "soul, creativity and part of themselves into their work." Those qualities, he said exemplify the spirit of this late wife, Lisa Chesser Borders, lost her battle with cancer in 2018 at age 49.

The Lisa Chesser Borders Student Art Collection Gallery is located on the first floor of NSU's Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library.

Sisters establish scholarship in memory of parents who achieved the American dream

An immigrant family, for whom education was crucial to achieving the American dream, are giving back by establishing a Northwestern State University scholarship that honors their parents and acknowledges their family's story of courage and perseverance.

Katina Manitzas Booras of Shreveport and Helen Manitzas Malachias of New Orleans created the Harry and Anastasia Manitzas Scholarship that will be awarded to a student seeking a degree in education, awarded from freshman year through graduation. Booras, Malachias and their late sister Mary Manitzas Georgiafandis, all earned degrees at NSU, where they were involved students.

Haralampos "Harry" Manitazs was an American citizen living in Greece during World War II, who dreamed of returning to the United States with his wife Anastasia and daughters Katina (born 1934), Helen (born 1936) and Mary (born 1940) so that the girls could be educated in America.

When World War II ended, the family made the difficult decision that Harry and the two older girls would travel to the U.S., leaving Anastasia and Mary in Greece, surrounded by family. It would be two years before Anastasia and Mary were able to travel to the U.S. and be reunited with their family, a time that provided many lessons in patience and determination. Anastasia and Mary joined the family in DeRidder in 1948.

Anastasia and Harry Manitzas are pictured with their daughters Katina, Helen and Mary.

At Northwestern, Katina was involved with the Purple Jackets, choir, Potpourri, Future Teachers of America and Associated Women's Students. She was named to the Potpourri Court, the Senior Class Hall of Fame and was Cenla Fair Queen. She graduated in 1957 with a degree in education and began a 36-year teaching career in Caddo Parish, also earning a master's degree at LSUS. She met her husband Sammy Booras, a 1954 Northwestern graduate, in Shreveport. Booras, now 92, was a baseball and basketball standout and was inducted into NSU's Athletic N-Club Hall of Fame in 1991.

Katina Manitzas Booras, Helen Manitzas Malachias and Mary Manitzas Georgiafandis

Helen graduated from DeRidder as salutatorian of her class and received a T.H. Harris Scholarship to attend NSU. She was involved with Purple Jackets, Associated Women Students, the State Fair Court, Student National Educational Association and Pi Omega Pi honor society for business. She graduated with a degree in business in 1959 and went to work for Standard Oil in Shreveport. She later married Charles Malachias of New Orleans, owner of Café Maspero, and though primarily a homemaker, kept books and helped with her husband's business. Mr. Malachias passed away in 2019.

With Katina and Helen in Shreveport, Harry, Anastasia and Mary relocated there in 1957, drawn to that city's Greek community and churches.

Mary graduated from Fair Park High School and attended Northwestern where she was involved in Potpourri and Student Louisiana Education Association and was a dormitory assistant. She earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1962 and a master's in education administration in 1964 and had a long career as a teacher and principal in Caddo Parish, where she was involved with many professional and philanthropic organizations and was devoted to her church and many aspects of service there. In 1990, she married John Georgiafandis. Mary Manitzas Georgiafandis passed away July 18, 2021, in Shreveport.

"We are pleased to accept a gift of $45,000 to establish a scholarship for a deserving student majoring in education," said Jill Bankston, NSU's director of Development. "The gift is offered by the Manitzas sisters, Katina, Helen and Mary, and honors their parents whose dearest wish was to offer their daughters an opportunity to achieve the American dream. While Katina and Helen mourn the passing of their sister Mary, it is their wish to add Mary's name to the honorarium."

For information on the Manitzas scholarship or to make a contribution, visit northwesternstatealumni.com/manitzas-scholarship/.

The NSU Foundation would like to announce the following newly established scholarships.

Richard & Shirley Jennings Memorial Scholarship
The Bob W. McLamore Foundation Scholarship
Osborn and Thelma Miller Family Endowment
Hardrick Rivers Memorial Scholarship for Musical Arts
Cane River Golden Sisters Scholarship
Pat and Chris Weaver Faculty Enhancement Endowment for Education in memory of Pat Weaver

For information on how you can support new or existing scholarships, contact Cristy Bernard at (318) 357-4292 or bernardc@nsula.edu.

Members of Sigma Sigma Sigma and Pi Kapph Phi hosted the annual Morgan Scholarship Program.

Morgans present Extra Mile, First Generation scholarships

Members of Northwestern State University's Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority were recognized as recipients of David D. Morgan and Sherry Fargerson Morgan Extra Mile Scholarships and First Generation Scholarships during a program April 7 that highlighted the accomplishments of student leaders committed to "going the extra mile."

Established in 2008, the Extra Mile Scholarship was created by David Morgan, a 1973 graduate of NSU and alum of the Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi. Consideration is given to those who distinguished themselves in academic success, chapter leadership, campus involvement and part-time employment.

The Sherry Fargerson Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship recognizes academic performance while encouraging active and sustained engagement at NSU, the Natchitoches community and within Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority. The scholarship was established in 2017 in honor of Mrs. Morgan, NSU graduate and alumna of the Alpha Zeta Chapter. The award is presented to collegiate members who best exemplify the ideals of scholarship, service and character.

Students who received Extra Mile Scholarships are Meghan Woods of Monroe, Trace Anthon of Hammond, Zoe Johnson of Patterson, Abigail Ramos of Denham Springs, Schuyler Mason of Shreveport, Gabriella Lawrence of Bossier City, Chandler Milligan of Shreveport, Joseph Adams of Wills Point, Texas; Linzi Lampert of Deville, Sydney Salzer of Bossier City, Colby Grayson of Bossier City, McKenzie Knotts of Keithville, Emma Cockrum of Prairieville, Jonatan Jimenez of Bossier City, Natalee Cook of Vivian, Andrew Dubriske of Hot Springs, Arkansas; Grace Gosserand of Ventress, Travis Jimenez of Belcher and Katelyn Kennedy of Baker. Travis Jimenez and Katelyn Kennedy were the top scholarship recipients.

The Morgan First Generation Scholarships were created in 2018 to assist members of Pi Kappa Phi and Sigma Sigma Sigma who are the first in their families to attend college. Recipients for 2022 are Trace Anthon of Hammond, Javier Garcia of Bossier City, Jonatan Jiminez of Bossier City, Travis Jimenez of Belcher, Abigail Lawrence of Bossier City, Gabriella Lawrence of Bossier City, Josephine Martinez of Shreveport and Emmett Nobles of Natchitoches.

Guest speakers were Mark E. Timmes, CEO of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, and Natalie Averett, national president of Sigma Sigma Sigma. NSU President Dr. Marcus Jones and David Morgan also provided remarks. Pi Kappa Phi alum Wes Breeden offered welcome and closing remarks. Sigma Sigma Sigma chapter advisor Jacque Crew, Pi Kappa Phi Chapter Advisor Doug Ireland and Drake Owens, assistant vice president for External Affairs presented the honors to recipients.

Earlier in the day, the Morgans announced a donation of $1.5 million that will go toward Northwestern State's new athletic strength and conditioning facility. Read more on page 13.

Morgans deliver largest private donation in NSU Athletics history

In his words, attending Northwestern State University was a "game-changer" for both David Morgan and his wife, Sherry.

Years after completing their undergraduate degree in business, the Morgans are returning the favor in an equally game-changing manner.

The couple, with deep Louisiana roots, announced a donation of $1.5 million that will go toward Northwestern State's new athletic strength and conditioning facility, which will be christened the David & Sherry Morgan Health Performance Center. The Morgans made their efforts known publicly ahead of their annual visit to campus to honor recipients of the David D. Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship and the Sherry F. Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship along with the First Generation Scholarship awards.

Pictured are NSU Assistant Athletic Director for Development Ryan Hall, NSU Director of Athletics Kevin Bostian, Sherry Morgan, David Morgan, NSU President Dr. Marcus Jones, NSU Director of Ticketing Scott Maggio and NSU head men's basketball coach Corey Gipson.

The Morgans' gift is the single-largest private gift in Northwestern State Athletics history.

The David & Sherry Morgan Health Performance Center will be constructed on the back end of the NSU Athletic Fieldhouse. It will include a new 11,600 square foot weight room with space for more than 100 student-athletes, a 25-foot artificial turf pad, a new nutrition center, student-athlete lounge and offices for the strength and conditioning staff.

The second phase of the project will convert the current weight room into a high-tech rehabilitation center along with other sports medicine upgrades. The third phase will be the renovation of the current Eugene Christmas training room.

Contributions can be made directly to the David & Sherry Morgan Health Performance Center project by visiting the website https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/Victorious or by contacting Bostian at bostiank@nsula.edu.

Alumna encourages connections, support for student-athletes

Virginia Dixon Monceret (2001) hosted the NSU soccer team for a post-game meal at her home on False River after the team played at LSU on Good Friday as part of their spring schedule.

"One of my favorite things in my time at NSU was that as students we were well-loved by the alumni, the university and the community," Monceret said.

Friends and family volunteered to prepare and serve shrimp fettucine for the group.

"Reatha and Johnny Cox came to town to be a part of the night and it meant the world to me as Reatha was and still is a mentor to me," she said.

The NSU soccer team and coaches were treated to a post-game meal on Good Friday.

When the charter bus arrived at sunset, each athlete was greeted with a hug. After their meal, the group gathered for a chat about school and life after graduation. Monceret's daughter and friends prepared a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt for the team.

"I know that the championship and recognitions the athletes have earned tell us that they are very talented. I can tell you that the character that these ladies displayed in my home is what makes them true champions," Monceret said.

Monceret urges her fellow alumni to pay it forward.

"We all stood on the shoulders of someone before us. Stay humble and serve. When the charter bus pulled away, my heart was very full. They now have a family of new fans who look forward to following them all the way to a back-to-back championship."

NSU's soccer team enjoyed one of its most successful seasons last year that included an NCAA Tournament trip to Arkansas in which the Lady Demons scored their first goal ever in a national postseason game this past November.

The Lady Demons claimed the Southland Conference regular season and tournament titles with a program record 10 all-conference selections.

The postseason awards were highlighted by Olivia Draguicevich (Player and Forward of the Year), Nicole Henry (Defender of the Year), Acelya Aydogmus (Goalkeeper of the Year), Caroline Hilliard (Freshman of the Year) and Stu Gore (Coach of the Year).

NSU introduces Corey Gipson as head men's basketball coach

Jobs, relationships and places can "feel right."

But when new Northwestern State men's basketball coach Corey Gipson walked into Prather Coliseum this past spring with his family, it even "smelled right."

Gipson was introduced as NSU's 10th men's basketball head coach in its 110-year history March 23 in front of fans and supporters in the Lucile Mertz Hendrick Room in the Friedman Student Union.

"It just smelt like basketball," said Gipson, who spent the past seven seasons on the Missouri State staff, including the last six as an associate head coach. "It had a stench to it that just made sense.

"My wife (April) said, 'What you think about it?' I said, 'It smells right.' And Frankie said, 'Yes.'

Frankie is Gipson's nearly 2-year-old child, a lanky daughter with a bubbly personality who started the press conference in her father's arms.

His college-aged son Jordan took over Frankie duties while his other son, Tanner, will be looking for a new basketball and academic home as the No. 1-ranked point guard in Missouri in the Class of 2024.

Gipson introduced his family at the press conference. From left are wife April with daughter Frankie, Gipson and sons Tanner and Jordan.

When Gipson does step into Prather Coliseum to coach his first game, the basketball court will bear the name of his predecessor Mike McConathy.

McConathy retired after leading the Demons for 23 seasons and has accumulated the most wins in Louisiana college basketball history in his 39 total seasons, and Gipson said he wants to continue the legacy that McConathy built.

"I met (McConathy) when (NSU played at Missouri State on Dec. 19, 2020), and he's a fine human being," Gipson said. "You can see the glow and the love he has for others, so I know he'll embrace my family and I as will the community.

"You can't replace a legend like (McConathy). He has a legacy in this town and a legacy in basketball that's deep rooted as he has coaches from all across the country who have been under his tutelage. I don't intend to replace him, I intend to lean on him, intend to be his brother and be his family."

Gipson acknowledged that change can be painful, an experience he had too early in life when his mother died when he was 9 years old.

He recounted how his father remarried, and how he had to share the love he had for his biological mother with his new mother.

"We don't often understand why we're put into different positions of change in life, and I didn't understand it as a kid," Gipson said. "But I know God put me in that position to prepare me for today and prepare me for this change.

"I guarantee you this change won't be harder than that … and just like we worked through that change as a family, we'll work through this change with this new family."

Aside from Gipson's credentials and qualities as a coach, one aspect about Gipson that resonated was his family, said NSU athletics director Kevin Bostian.

"Missouri State athletics director Kyle Moats said that (Corey's) wife April in particular is a rockstar, and you're going to love having them in the community," Bostian said. "It was clear that Gipson possessed all the qualities that we desired in a head coach.

While not a Louisiana native, Gipson did nail down a few specifics before stepping foot on NSU's campus for the first time as a college head basketball coach.

"The people have been so warm and welcoming here, from the hospitality at the hotel to members of other coaching staffs, it's been a real blessing. I've been in Louisiana and Texas to recruit, and I'm familiar with this land and the AAU programs and coaches. But it's not about recruiting a certain area, it's about recruiting the right person who comes in with the mentality we're looking for. I'm not from Louisiana but it's a divine situation where we feel like we're the right fit for the program, and we're very thankful for the opportunity."

Football season tickets are on sale now for Demon fans

Northwestern State football fans can start making their plans for Saturdays this fall as Demon season tickets are now on sale. A variety of options are available by logging onto **www.NSUTickets.com**, calling the Northwestern State Athletics Ticket Office at 318-357-4268 or by visiting the office in person inside the NSU Athletics Fieldhouse.

The full-season, five-game package includes Northwestern State's Sept. 10 matchup against Grambling at Shreveport's Independence Stadium.

There are six levels of purchase plans for the 2022 season, which also includes home games against Southeastern Louisiana (Sept. 24), Nicholls (Oct. 1), Southeast Missouri (Oct. 22) and McNeese (Nov. 19).

VIP packages are on sale for $630. Included in this offering are a $500 donation to the Demons Unlimited Foundation and admission to the DUF suites at Turpin Stadium as well as premium seating for the Grambling game in Shreveport. In addition to the fully catered suites, VIP ticket packages also include upgraded parking at Turpin Stadium depending on donor level.

The VIP package does not include suite tickets to the Grambling game. Those are available for $175 at a later date. Contact Scott Maggio at maggios@nsula.edu for more information on the release of those tickets.

Reserved chairback seat packages are available for $115 with NSU faculty and staff chairback packages on sale for $75. Faculty and staff chairback seating are available in Sections D, E, H and I.

Military and senior citizen season ticket packages can be had for $105 while young alumni packages, available for Northwestern State alumni ages 30 and younger, are available for $75.

General admission tickets, good for any bleacher seat in Turpin Stadium on either side and in the upper deck, cost $60. All season tickets include a parking pass, a $50 value.

The NSU Family Four Pack, introduced during the 2021 season, remains available. The Family Four Pack is comprised of four chairback tickets in Sections D and I on the west side of Turpin Stadium for $200. Additional seats can be added to the package for $50 per seat.

Support NSU Athletics through DEMONS UNLIMITED

Donations to the Demons Unlimited Foundation help provide scholarships for over 350 deserving student-athletes each year, accounting for over $250,000 in expenses for the Athletic Department. Simply put: We cannot do what we do without you. Your support allows us to remain competitive and continue to enhance the educational and athletic experiences of our student-athletes.

Thank you,
and Fork 'em, Demons!

DEMONS UNLIMITED FOUNDATION

In Memory

1931 – Earline Hart Andrews, March 16, 2022, North Richland Hills, Texas
Until her death at age, 111, Mrs. Andrews was NSU's oldest known living graduate.

1949 – Annie Virginia Allen McMillan, May 8, 2022, Little Rock, Arkansas

1952 – Alexa Stothart Boyette, May 11, 2022, Natchitoches

1953 – Lynn Galloway, March 22, 2022, Natchitoches

1953 – Evelyn Pyle Adams, March 22, 2022, Shreveport

1953 – Patsy Longlois, March 24, 2022, Natchitoches

1960 – Nova Ruth Rachal, April 5, 2022, Provencal

1962 – Mary Lou Mathews McNeel, May 27, 2022, Marshall, Texas

1964 – Janith Couvillion Frederick, April 15, 2022, Natchitoches

1964 – Anne Hungerbeeler Baker, March 5, 2022, Baton Rouge

1967, 1976 – Patrick D. Weaver, April 12, 2022, Lafayette

1970 – Bobby Wayne McLamore, March 25, 2022, DeRidder

1971 – Richard Newton McElhatten Jr., March 5, 2022, Shreveport

1971 – Charles Militello, Dec. 19. 2021, East Amherst, New York

1972 – Glen Henry Welman, Aug. 8. 2021, New Orleans

1972 – David Michael "Sam" Benit, Dec. 15, 2021, Minden

1975, 1981 – William Terry Monday, March 17, 2022, Jacksonville, Florida

1984 – Ruth Appelt Gilchrist, April 29, 2022, Alexandria

1993 – Rosanna Kay "Roxie" Miller, March 12, 2022, Athens, Alabama

1993 – Karen Parker Wiley, April 9, 2022, Hot Springs, Arkansas

2001 – Larry Fulton Holman Jr., May 12, 2022, Longview, Texas

Dr. Edward Graham, March 25, 2022, Natchitoches
Dr. Graham was former chairman of the Department of Chemistry and Physics who also served as dean of the College of Science and Technology, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, dean of Graduate Studies and Research, dean of Instruction, vice president for Academic Affairs and faculty senate president. He was also Professor Emeritus of Chemistry.

Raeanna Laree Free – May 16, 2022, Stonewall

Susan Dollar remembered with scholarship, program enhancement fund

Photo submitted by Dollar Family, as Dr. Susan Dollar considered herself the "Queen of History."

The family of the late Dr. Susan Dollar and the Northwestern State University Foundation have created the Susan E. Dollar Endowed Scholarship in History and the Social Sciences and the Dr. Susan Dollar Program Enhancement Fund for the Cammie G. Henry Research Center. Dollar's brothers, sister, sisters-in laws, nieces and nephew and her wonderful family of NSU students and faculty undertake this hopefully memorable step with joy.

"Susan absolutely loved teaching and her relationships at the university, and it nourished her for the decades she taught there. She shared that love of teaching -- and her countless horribly corny jokes -- enthusiastically, and the love was returned by many students and friends over her entire career," according to her brother, David Dollar.

After her parents, Jim and Katheryne Dollar, arrived in Natchitoches in the mid-1960s, all five of their children went on to graduate from NSU. Susan studied at Agnes Scott and in France before returning to Natchitoches and NSU. Upon graduation, she first taught French and English at Captain Shreve High School in Shreveport. She returned to Northwestern for an M.A. in cultural resource management and history. Soon thereafter, she found herself digging and gigging for Texas A&M in College Station, Texas, where she earned a second M.A. in history. Somehow, the union of Louisiana and Texas led Susan to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville where she earned a Ph.D. in history and made lifelong friends in a regional historical peer group, including work at the Clinton Library. To her and everyone's pleasure, an unsurprising return to Northwestern State's history department followed where she taught and lived for the remainder of her career.

In addition to teaching, she traveled the paths of the Underground Railroad and Freedman Bureau Schools, worked with the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, the National Park Service, the Creole Heritage Center, the Cane River National Heritage Area, the Natchitoches Genealogy Association and many other professional organizations. She used her knowledge and love of history with hands-on research, service and love of what she did.

The endowed scholarship will be presented to a sophomore, junior or senior student majoring in history, anthropology or sociology, preferably to provide support for an internship in those fields. The program enhancement for the Cammie G. Henry Research Center will be administered by the head librarian/archivist for the preservation of documents and organization of archival materials related to historic preservation within the Cane River National Heritage Area.

Friends who wish to contribute to the scholarship or program enhancement fund can do so at northwesternstatealumni.com/dollar-scholarship/ and northwesternstatealumni.com/dollar-enhancement-fund/.

Guess Who

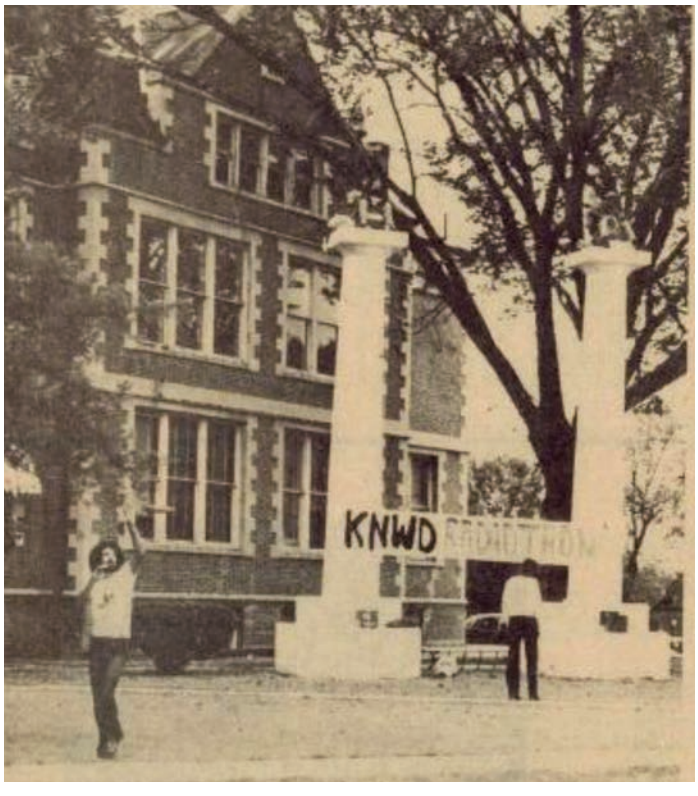
The Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta was chartered in 1972. Photos of the chapter's first officers appeared in the spring 1973 Potpourri.

Can you name them?
Send answers to jacksonl@nsula.edu and include your name, city of residence and year you graduated.

The winner of Star Search pictured in the 1992 Potpourri was Lola Davis. Those who guessed correctly are as follows.

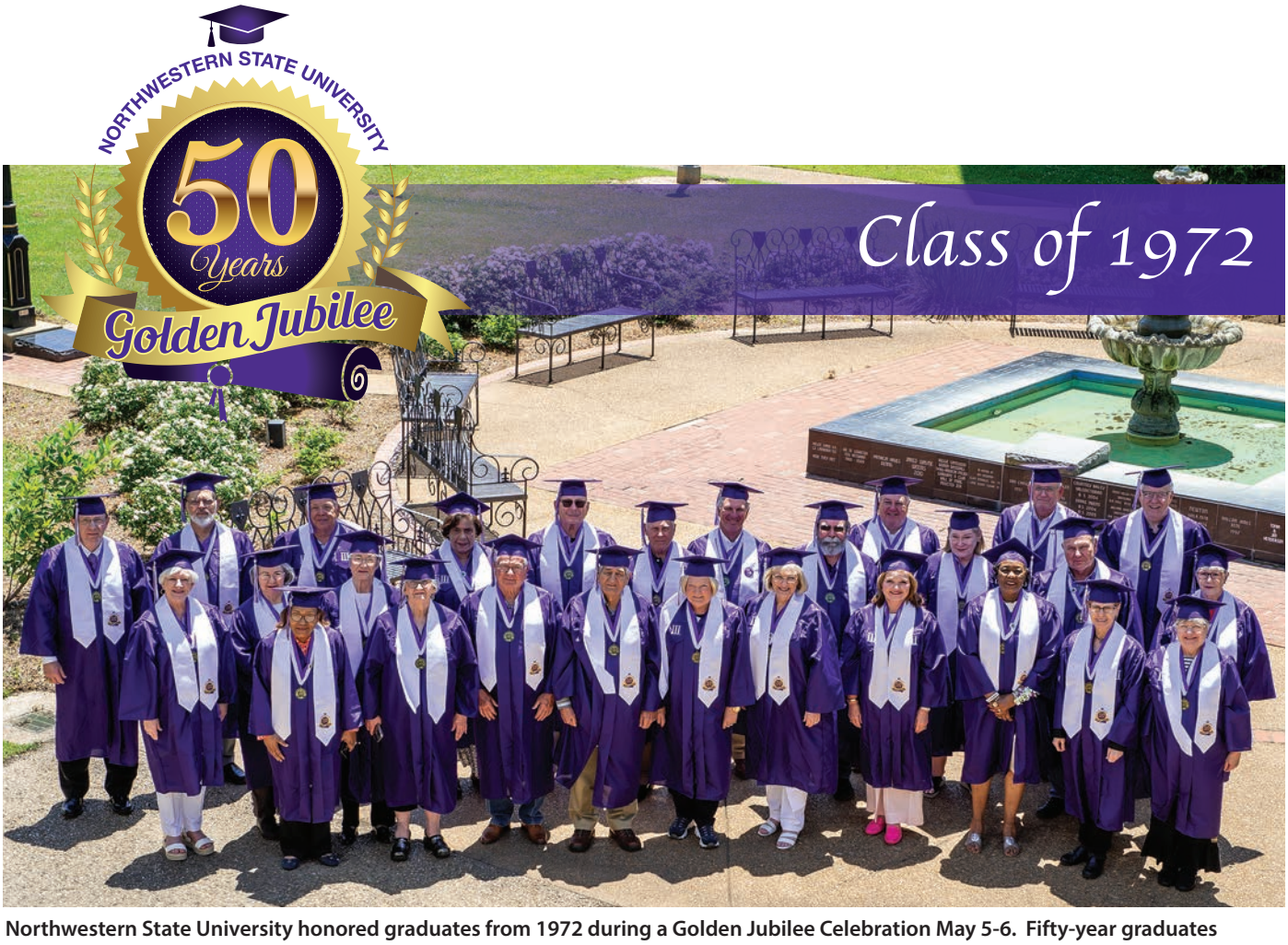
Tammy Clary Neil (1992), Dallas
Linda David Crochet (1992), Alexandria
Kelley Graham Wallace (1991) Buies Creek, North Carolina

Looking Back



In October 1982, KNWD hosted a Radiothon in the hopes of raising $8,000 to buy new equipment and help expand the station's power from 10 watts to 250 watts. General Manager Richard Fillet and staff Ginny Whitaker and Curt Boudreaux, who hatched the idea, received permission to sit atop the columns in front of Caldwell Hall for 54 hours. Fillet issued a call to other campus organizations to pony up for the cause as the station hosted a live broadcast from the foot of the columns, a car wash and sought donations for prize giveaways. The chairs for those who risked life and limb to sit atop the columns were tied to each column and outfitted with safety belts in the event that anyone "fell asleep on their post."

Northwestern State University
Alumni Columns
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002



Northwestern State University honored graduates from 1972 during a Golden Jubilee Celebration May 5-6. Fifty-year graduates received their second diplomas during ceremony, followed by a reception. On the front row from left are Marie Alaina Davis Bozzelle, Nancy Strohschein, Catherine Grennard Beard, Elaine Richard Haworth, Joan Edwards , L. C. Ingles Jr., Kenneth Dale James, Belinda Kay Jackson Easley, Linda Susan Anstead Howard, Susan Mandeville Knowles, Peggie Griffin Davis, Judy A. Wester and Gladys Elizabeth Fife. On the back row are Kooch Michael Sawrie, Lester Wayne Fife, Robert Gordon Jackson, Rose Mary Austin Bridges, Roger R. Sexton, James Lynn Bordelon, Sam Crawford Pernici, Patrick Ansel Thompson, Kenneth P. Guidry, Gailand Marie Clausen, John H. Lyles Jr., Henry Frederick Gegenheimer, William Bozzelle, Virgie Kreidel Rose.